

Press Release



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Celebrate North Dakota's Farm Heritage at Sodbuster Days July 8-9

North Dakota's farming heritage will be celebrated at the 23rd annual Fort Ransom Sodbuster Days July 8-9. Held at Fort Ransom State Park in southeastern North Dakota, Sodbuster Days showcases the state's homesteading and ethnic heritage with horse-drawn field work, pioneer homemaking skills, music, stick-to-the-ribs foods and much more.

Sponsored by the volunteer Fort Ransom Sodbusters Association, Sodbuster Days demonstrations are held from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Additional activities include a Saturday night pork dinner, followed by an old-time music jam session; and on Sunday, farm breakfast, church services and a parade.

Twenty-plus teams of draft horses will be used to demonstrate field work or hitched to "people movers" for wagon rides. One of the highlights of this summer's event will be hay stacking using a horse-powered "Jayhawk" hay stacker. The unique antique apparatus was acquired and restored by association members.

Also being used this year is the park's new Music Building. The 32 ft. by 56 ft. building was funded by donations and constructed by Fort Ransom Sodbusters Association members. Musicians will be playing inside the building all day Saturday, with a jam session and dancing from 8-10 p.m. Saturday night. On Sunday at 1 p.m. storyteller and musician Bill Rossiter, from Kalispel, Mont., will entertain visitors with his program, "Stories, Songs & Sodbusters."

Cost to attend Sodbuster Days is \$5/person per day, with children 12 and under admitted free. The regular state park entrance fee will be waived. For those wishing to spend the weekend, the park offers camping with electrical hookups, showers, plenty of picnicking areas and canoe and kayak rentals. The park is located along the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway, 35 miles south of Valley City, 18 miles northwest of Lisbon or two miles north of the town of Fort Ransom. For more information, call (701) 973-4331.

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Play in our backyard!

Fort Ransom Sodbuster Days—July 8-9, 2006
Schedule of Activities

Both Days

Saturday, July 8—10 a.m.-5 p.m. & Sunday, July 9, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.)

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| Harnessing the horses (<i>Barn, 10 a.m.</i>) | Pioneer crafts, homemaking skills & food samples |
| Kids' activities (<i>10 a.m.-4 p.m.</i>) | • Corn muffins (<i>Cook Car</i>) |
| Wheelwright (<i>Noon</i>) | • Doughnuts (<i>Summer Kitchen</i>) |
| Horse-powered threshing (<i>1 p.m.</i>) | • Sauerkraut (<i>Log Cabin</i>) |
| Horse-powered haying (<i>2 p.m.</i>) | • Lefse & rommegrot |
| Horse-powered fieldwork | • Ice cream making |
| Farrier | • Butter churning |
| Stationary engines display and demonstrations | • Open fire cooking |
| Pedal-powered woodworking | • Tatting & spinning (<i>Sunne House</i>) |
| Blacksmith shop | • Wheel-thrown pottery (<i>Log Cabin</i>) |
| Valentine elevator | • Farm & church displays |
| Woodcarving | • Flintknapping & looming |
| Live music (<i>Music Building</i>) | • Treadle sewing, rug weaving, quilting, Brazilian embroidery & more. |

Saturday, July 8

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| 5 p.m. | Pie Auction |
| 6 p.m. | Old-fashioned Pork Dinner (<i>Adults \$7.50, ages 6-12 \$3.50, 6 & under free</i>) |
| 8-10 p.m. | Music Jam Session (<i>Music Building</i>) |

Sunday, July 9

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| 7-9:30 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 9 a.m. | Interdenominational Church Service |
| 10:30 a.m. | Parade |
| 1 p.m. | Stories, Songs & Sodbusters, by Bill Rossiter (<i>New Music Building</i>) |
| 2 p.m. | Turn of Century Style Show (<i>Log Cabin-music by Dane & Charlie Kreidelcamp</i>) |
| 3 p.m. | Auction (<i>handmade quilts, dish towels, table runners and more</i>) |